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FIELD DIARY

Mr.

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1931

Nov. 2 - Left Washington by Bus
for Richwood, Va. at 8:15 AM.

Arrived Richwood at 11:30 and went
to Game Commission office at Capitol
building. Saw Mr. Hart, secretary
of commission and Mr. Hanley,
in charge of game propagation -
Also met Mr. Burley from
Ashville, S.C., and together we
drove to Ashland where we
picked up the local game warden
~~Edward Windham~~, and went over
some of the best deer range in
Hanover and Carolyn counties.
Visited the Wool School, a large
colonial upper school for boys
with several thousand acres
as a wild life sanctuary.

Found deer tracks abundant
in fields where cowpeas and black peas
were raised and many left as the ground

M. D. Hart, Executive Secretary
Game Commission - Richmond
Chas. O. Handley, in Charge of Game
Propagation and management
Edmund Winston, Game Warden of
Hanover Co. at Ashland
Julian Spears, Midlothian, Chesterfield Co.
Dr. Jones, Petersburg, "
Jeff. Burdstone, Desputanta, Va.
Warder in Prince George Co.
J. B. Cherry, Hickory, R.F.D.
In dismal swamp, will get deer at bear tracks
W. C. Rives, Supervisor, McKinney, Va.
Charles M. Grizzard, Sheriff, game warden
Emporia, Va.

No. 3 - Picked up Warden Julian Spears at Richmond and went over much of Chesterfield Co. south of ~~Richmond~~
Found much good country for deer and wild turkeys and several places where deer tracks were common and Burleigh saw four deer in the swamp ~~at~~ mouth of Appomattox River. Lots of tracks in field of cowpeas and clay beans & soy beans. Last fall 125 deer, mostly bucks were killed in Chesterfield Co. and there seem plenty of deer left. Only bucks have been killed for 7 years but there is no over abundance of does as yet.

Dr. Jones thinks one deer a year without regard to sex

Would be better and if necessary
only one month of open season.
There are not half enough deer
and they should be increased.
He thinks 50 does were killed
last year and not reported.
All hunting is with dogs or
runways and there is no danger
of shooting men in this way.
The timber and brush are so
dense that still hunting is
useless with the present number
of deer and dogs are justified
here if anywhere.

Dr. Jones thinks only turkey
gobblers should be killed as
there are few turkeys and as many
or more gobblers than hens.
Mr. Hawley suggests raising
and releasing turkey hens to
satisfy all the wild gobblers and
thus increasing the wild stock.

Gray foxes are very common and many fresh tracks were seen yesterday and today. This may account for scarcity of wild turkeys.

The Game Department raised and are releasing about 600 wild turkeys this year.

Dr. Jones urges them not to release any gobblers.

Visited the Quail Farm and Mr. Coleman showed us over it. They have a very complete equipment with a modern incubator holding 2000 quail eggs and pens for 7000 quail. They have sold 5000 this year and have 2000 on hand in good condition. Also he penaled quail from Oklahoma and a mountain quail from Oregon. Also a Ruffed Grouse.

Mr. Sullivan has made
a complete success of raising
bobwhites and can produce them
in any numbers desired.
His hens lay up to 90 eggs and
125 eggs apiece. He has
been laying for 8 years

He wants to try sage grouse,
Mearns quail or California quail
I want him to try Franklin or
sharp tailed grouse and Sooted
quail

Returned to Richmond Hotel
in evening.

Nov. 4, Started in morning
for Prince George Co. and
picked up Mr. J. H. Birdsong
at Disputanta, county warden,
and took him with us all day
in covering the country
for deer. Visited several game
refuges and struck the banks
of the James River at several
points.

Found cypress abundant
along the river shores and in
swamps near the river

Found tracks of many gray foxes,
one red fox, raccoon, opossum,
mink, muskrats and plenty -
of deer.

Found most deer tracks in
peanut fields where the deer
were feeding on the stacked
peanuts or those scattered on the ground.

Peanuts are the principal crop on thousands of acres, and bear well on this sandy soil.

Found a threshing machine in one field threshing out the peanuts. They had many sacks full and were turning out a big stream of peanuts.

They are said to be worth about 2 cents a pound or 50¢ a bushel. Many are fed to hogs and they are said to give the Smithfield Ham its unique flavor.

Over 100 deer were killed in Prince George Co. last fall and they are still numerous.

Nov. 5. Thursday

Drove through Hopewell to Cabin Point in ~~Piney~~^{Surry} Co. where we picked up Mr. Savage, the local trapper, and with him visited several good deer sections near the James River. Found many deer tracks in peanut fields and corn fields and at one point opposite Jamestown Mr. Jones showed us over his place where there were lots of deer in the woods, seagrass and a big marsh. The marsh was all tramped and trampled by deer and they are said to lie out in the tall bent grass and three square grass, Scirpus americanus? Mr. Jones says he caught 250 muskrats last fall in this marsh of about 40 acres.

Came back to Claremont where Dr. Spears has many kinds of pheasants and about 100 bobwhites and two wild turkeys.

Then drove south to Wardsley and to near Honeyville where we saw warden Honeyman in Sussex Co. where the most deer were killed last fall of any county, about 170.

He says the deer are still abundant but not so many as last fall.

He was hawking peanuts and picking cotton.

Drove to Courtland and on to Suffolk at 9 P.M. and stopped at the Elliott Hotel.

Saw many bats at Honeyville.

Turkeys, quail and squirrels are pretty common.

An owl caught a cottontail in wood.

A warm day and very pleasant.
The country produces mostly
peanuts, some corn and cotton
but little else.

Good roads everywhere,
sandy and level country and
most roads hard surface.
Many fine old places dating
from colonial times, but
less of country cultivated
than before the civil war.

Old places date back to 1607.
A beautiful country that
should be full of game.

Nov. 6 Friday, Suffolk.

To Portsmouth to get Shirley Hope
from order there who brought us down
to the ditch where we met game warden
Craddock of Suffolk Co.

Got the boat warden J. P. Chesney, with
a motor boat to take us up the ditch
to take him around.

About 4 miles while he is the
care taker for the company that owns
the swamps and a game warden by
special appointment, a very fine
fellow of the rugged type needed for
such work and with good ideas of
wild life protection.

He showed us lots of deer tracks
and trails and told us much about
the hunting. Has promised to save
skulls of deer and bear for me
and also other, raccoon, mink
and other animals. Says there are
many swamp rabbits and we saw tracks.

Ferns & Sedge & Lake 2 - or more

<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	abn. outside
<i>Taxodium</i>	abn.
<i>Acer</i>	most abundant tree
<i>Sweet gum</i>	abn.
<i>Sour gum</i>	"
<i>Hickory</i>	" a large
<i>Holly</i>	"
<i>Thuja</i>	" along lake shore, small
<i>Salix</i>	a few
<i>Prunus</i>	"
<i>Crataegus spinosa</i>	abn., quite scattered
<i>Myrica</i>	"
<i>Vitis</i> 2	" & scattered with <i>Populus</i>
<i>Betula</i> 2-3	"
<i>Eriocarpus</i> (?) - scattered com	
<i>Gaultheria</i> - 3	abn.
<i>Vaccinium</i>	com.
<i>Galaucocarpus</i>	"
<i>Fragaria</i>	abn.

<i>Rhus glabra</i>	com
" <i>topionchindica</i>	"
<i>Azalea</i>	"
<i>Louisea</i>	"
<i>Phytolacca</i>	abn. & scattered, broad
<i>Nicotiana</i>	com.
<i>Persimmon</i>	a few
<i>Elmus</i>	"
<i>Sambucus</i>	abn.
<i>Anemone</i>	"
<i>Ferns</i> - galore	"
<i>Sphagnum</i> & other mosses	abn
<i>Thrushes</i> , many & numerous	
<i>Baccharis</i>	at foot of lake bank,

Waves so high we could not go on the lake nor see the ducks said to be on it. Water the color of good coffee and good to drink. Picturesque old structures & trees along shore.

Was much surprised to find a Thuya along edge of lake as well as abundance of cypress and Tupelo Gum. Big spiny Aralia is abundant and often 20 feet tall.

Vegetation is dense and wild fruit and berries in great abundance. It is a paradise for bears and deer and other life.

The lake is held about 20 feet above the canal levels and tidewaters by a dam on the ditch and the water can be let out at any time to fill the canals.

Figs are bearing and castor oil plants, cannas and chrysanthemums are in blossom and free from signs of frost tho there was heavy frost at Pots worth last night.

Abundance of grapes on ground that seem to be a small Muscadine.

In PM drove back to
Portsmouth, Suffolk, and west
to Courtland and Emporia,
where we stopped for the night.
Found there are not many deer
in Southampton Co. which is
well settled with no extensive wild
areas. Couldnt find George Vicks
the warden but talked with others
and got some good information
regarding deer and other
game.

Countryside as usual, dense
forests except on the cleared
farms where cotton, corn and
peanuts are the main crops.
Soy beans and cow peas are
much raised for hogs and the
hogs generally allowed to harvest
their own crops.

Smithfield hams are made in
this region and supposed to be the

good flavor to the peanuts
on which the boys put.

Many threshing machines were seen
at work in the peanut fields and
many truck and wagon loads
of sacked peanuts were being
hauled to market.

The price is very low, about
2 1/4 cents a pound where they
are generally 3 to 5 cents.

Beautiful weather but chilly
toward night.

Nov.
Aug. 7, Saturday
Waited at Emporia for
Mr. W. C. Rives of M. C. Kinney
to join us and go over
some of the counties the
district of which he is
superintendent.

We first went into
Greenville Co. where warden
Charles M. Grizzard took
us over some well stocked deer
range in his county, both
southeast and northwest of
Emporia.

We then crossed over into
Dinwoodee Co. where Mr.
Rives took us over extensive
forest areas well stocked with
deer and with a few wild turkeys
and quail. Both sides of the
Notaway River are covered with
great forests valuable for both game
and timber.

Heavy frost in morning but very pleasant day as it has been on the whole trip.

Much of this land could be bought for 6 or 8 dollars an acre with standing timber enough to pay for it and still have a good young growth for game cover. Some excellent refugees could be found in this part of the state if there were available funds to pay for them.

Left Mr. Rivers at Pewitt at 5 PM and reached Pittsburgh at 5:30, in time for Burleigh to catch a train home to Ashville, N.C. Mr. Hardley and I came on to Richmond where I stopped for the night at the Richmond Hotel while Hardley went on to his home in Ashland, some 16 miles to the north.

Nov. 8 Sunday,

Wrote all day as fast as I could on my report and finished the parts on due of bear. Will have to stay till Monday morning to see Mr. Hart and talk over the game situation with him.

Another beautiful day.

Nov. 28, 1931

Started for Asheville
North Carolina with three
beavers from Victor Evans'
Recreation Park for the
Pisgah National Forest and
Game Refuge.

Had much trouble in catching
them as they had dug far under
the hill and under the road
but were finally cornered
in this old board house.
The upper incisors of the
two original young from
Pennsylvania were so long
from lack of any wood to eat
that they had to be sawed off
so they could eat.

Nov. 29 Tuesday -
Arrived at Ashville 8:20
AM and went to Battery Park
Hotel. Was met by Tom
Burleigh and Dick Hildbrand
at train and we went to the
Forest Supervisor's office,
Mr. Mattoon, and with
him inspected the ponds
on Paint Creek but one
had been emptied and the
other was to be soon for the
winter.

Examined the creek for places
to put the beavers but did
not find any very good
place where they would
stay without freezing,
so drove over to the
Biltmore Place where they
have some good ponds on
their Game Refuge.

Picked out the Bear
Pond of about 6 acres as
the first place and built
a beaver house on the
island and put the beavers
in it. When they came
out they were not frightened
and explored about quietly
and seemed to like the
pond and the abundant
food of sedges, grass,
and small brush.

This place is nearer to
Asheville than was the
one on Pisga and the
beavers will be well protected.
Mr. Clegg was much
interested and offered all
the help and cooperation
possible in caring for
and studying them and
gives Beulah the freedom

of his 30,000 deer place
at all times of day or night.
When the beavers increase
there will be plenty for all
the ponds and streams about
here but as they are
all fur-traps they will not
increase much until we
get a wale to put with
them.

Drove over the Pittsburg
place before dark and saw
about 200 deer and one
flock of a dozen wild
turkeys. Dick Hildibrand
shot one for a specimen for
Burleigh and offered to get
him a deer or anything
he wanted.

Saw two gray foxes that
had been caught in steel
traps and were quite tame.
Their eyes at midday showed
very narrow slits of the victim
pupils, narrower than a cat's
eyes. In one the iris was
dark brown, in the other a
yellowish gray or dull greenish
color.

Nov. 30, Monday,

Went up Mt. Mitchell
with Burleigh & Mr. Fotheringham
and saw some of the country
inspite of a rainy day.

Fairly good road nearly to
top and some camps up near
the summit.

Many trees and bushes new
to me and a real Canadian
Zone Cap to the mountain.

Saw a red squirrel and a few
Ruffed grouse. Lots of various
sign, some muds & others.

Snowshoe rabbits appear to be
on top of the ~~mountain~~ and
Burleigh will try to get us some.

Some bear are killed on this
mountain each year and many
deer.

Back to Ashville in time to
catch a 5:30 train for
Richmond Virginia.
Had to change cars at

J. P. Wall,
Supt. State Game Farm at
Boulevard, Va.

~~Nov. 20~~- Arrived in
Richmond, Virginia at 8:15
AM and went to the Game
Commission. Mr. Charles
Handley took me out to the
State Game Farm in afternoon
where I saw thick tame deer
tame wild turkeys and a lot of
the 3500 bobwhites raised
in pens last summer.

Got one doe skull and wool
or catkinabilis traps for getting
mink and weasels and shanks as
well as cats and coons and
rats around the quail and
pheasant pens.

Back to Richmond for the
night but made arrangements
by telephone for a deer hunt
tomorrow.

Dec. 2, Wednesday -

Took 8 AM bus for McKinney
where I joined Game Supervisor
W.C. Rivers on a deer hunt.

He had out 17 men and
two packs of hounds in a big
timber and swamp country where
deer tracks were common.

The men with shot guns were
scattered out along old wood
roads for a mile or more
and one man put out the dogs.
Three deer were jumped but
no one got a shot.

Saw a few deer tracks, a few
gray fox and one turkey track.
No other game except cottontail
tracks.

A cold but pleasant day.

Returned to Richardson in evening.

Dec. 3

Took bus for Washington
at 8:30 AM and arrived at noon.
Cool and pleasant.

Dec. 30, Wednesday,

Left Washington 3:05 PM for Harrisburg, Pa., to select a male beaver to add to the 3 females placed on the Biltmore Estate a month ago.

Dr. Winnehoff has arranged for a trap to get the beaver in morning.

Got a pleasant room in the Penn Harris Hotel, 709, at \$2.50 without bath but hot and cold water & toilet, and all modern equipment.

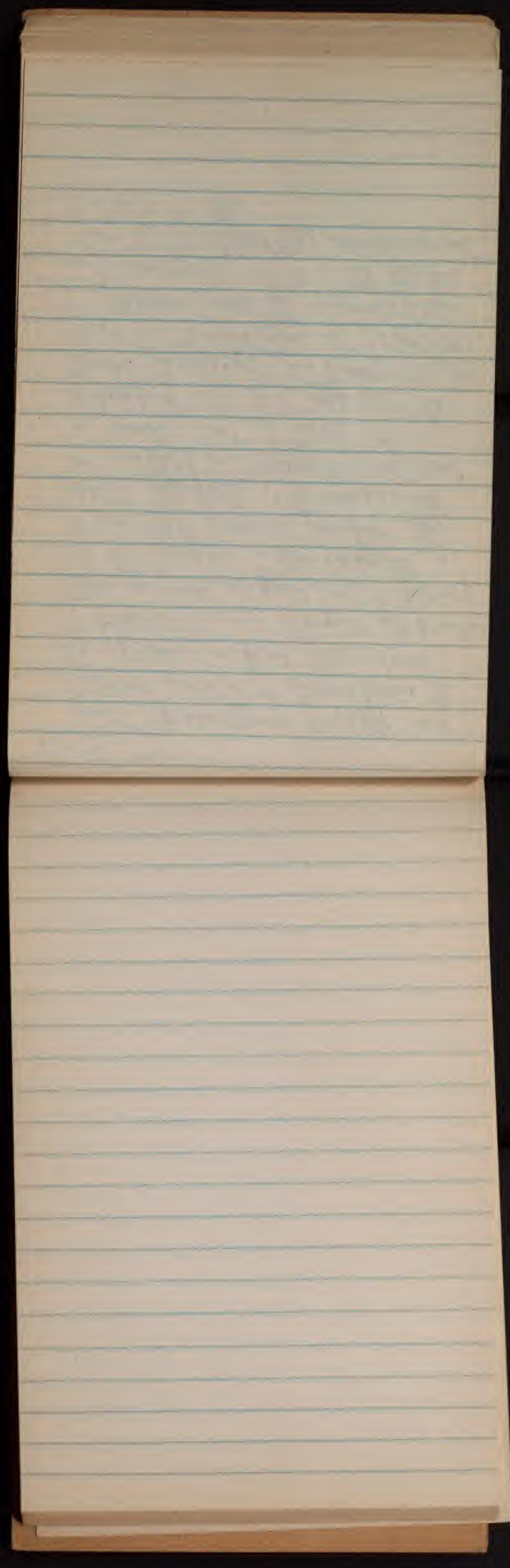
A pleasant day and no snow.

Sue. 31

Left Harrisburg 9 AM and drove west of Lurystown to the place where they had 7 calves in boxes & crates, two good sized and 5 young of the year. The largest, a 3 year old was a female, the next largest, a two year old or rather a 19 months old, was a male and I took it.

Shipped it by express to Tom Burleigh at Fisherlly, N.C. from Lurystown at 1:20 PM.

Drove back to Harrisburg and caught 3:18 PM train for Washington, arriving at 4:40 PM.



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OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

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Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Biological Survey.

Odocoileus virginianus

Fairly abundant in the low
country of Virginia southeast and
southwest of Richmond.

